

7

JC784 U.S. PTO
07/06/00

MARCUS G. THEODORE, P.C.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
REGISTERED PATENT ATTORNEY
466 SOUTH 500 EAST
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102
FAX 801-359-8995
TEL 801-359-8622

JC857 U.S. PTO
09/611073
07/06/00

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith this May day of May, 2000, postage prepaid to the
Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, for filing is the patent application of
Inventor: Mike Katsanevas
For: BANK CARD TERMINAL COVER

Enclosed are:

☒ (x) 2 sheets of drawings ☐ Formal ☒ x Informal
☐ An assignment of the invention to _____
☒ (x) Small Inventor Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition.

CLAIMS FILED

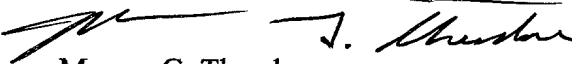
	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
Total Claims	8- 20	0	11.00	\$345.00
Independent Claims	2-3	0	36.00	0.00
Multiple Dep. Claim	0	0	115.00	0.00

Total Filing Fee \$345.00

☒ (x) A check in the amount of \$345.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
☐ A check in the amount of \$40.00 to cover the assignment recording fee.

I verify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contained above on
the cover sheet is true and correct, and any copy submitted is a true copy of the original
document.

Date: 5/9/2000


Marcus G. Theodore
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,815
466 South 500 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
Telephone: 801-359-8622

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

Serial No. :
Filing Date: :
Inventor: Mike Katsanevas :
Invention: Bank Card Terminal Cover : Group Art 2514
Examiner: :

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION)
CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27 (b))

I hereby declare that I, Mike Katsanevas, am the inventor of the above referenced application, that I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and are under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person or entity who would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

I further acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are made of my own knowledge and are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.


Dated this 29 day of June, 2000.

Inventor: 

Mike Katsanevas
3190 South Highland Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I mailed a true and correct copy of the foregoing Small Inventor Declaration to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, postage prepaid, this 29 day of June, 2000.



BANK CARD TERMINAL COVER

Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part application of the continuation-in-part application, Serial No. 09/131,352 filed 8/10/98 of the originally filed application entitled "Bank Card Terminal Cover", Serial No. 08/786,564, filed 01/17/97, now abandoned.

Background of the Invention

Field. This invention relates to covers. More particularly, it provides a crush resistant cover for a bank card terminal processing machine.

State of the Art. Numerous retailers utilize bank card processing terminals to pay for item sales. These bank card processing terminals are fairly sensitive to environmental hazards. They have card slots leading into the interior of the bank card terminal electronic circuitry to electronically read the information on the magnetic strips of customer bank cards. This information is then transmitted via cables operably associated with telephone lines leading to a main computer processor. These bank card processing terminals also include a key pad below a display screen to alternatively manually input a customer's bank card data and the amount of the sale. Presently there is no good protective device to prevent accidental contact damage to or environmental exposure of the bank card terminal. For example, some bank card terminal processing machines have a transparent plastic key pad cover covering the keys. These do not prevent dust, grime, grease, liquids, and food from accumulating in the card slot reader, causing damage to the electronics. These transparent plastic key pads become brittle and opaque through age and do not prevent damage to the terminals if accidentally hit by an object. Therefore, usage of these bank card terminal machines is generally restricted to a retailer's indoor office areas.

Other soft flexible plastic covers are used to cover the bank card terminal to prevent dust, grime, grease, liquids, and food from causing damage to the electronics. However, these soft plastic covers do not prevent accidental crushing of the bank card terminals.

One device, *Eppich* discloses an impervious modular crush resistant container into which electronic components are sealed therein to provide a rugged modular housing unit for protecting the electronic circuitry contained therein. As a sealed container, *Eppich* is unsuited for use as a bank card terminal container, which requires exposure of the internal circuitry via a card slot to read the magnetic strips of bank cards inserted therein. *Eppich* also does not shield the containerized electronic device itself from dropped objects. The shock of objects dropped on

Eppich is absorbed by the modular container itself. This can cause cracking or distortion of the container, which may affect the internal electrical component alignment.

There thus remains a need for a crush resistant cover with a closed top and extending sides defining an open bottom, which extends about and around bank card terminals to protect them from falling objects, liquids, dust, and grease. The invention described below provides such a device for fast food restaurants, auto repair shops, and other retailers wherein heavy objects and dust, grime and grease are routinely encountered near sales counters, or for outdoor use.

Summary of the Invention

The invention comprises a crush resistant terminal cover with sides defining an open bottom sized to fit about and over a bank card terminal processing machines having accessible card reading slots and keyboards, which are pervious to liquids, dust and grease. The cover is constructed of a rigid crush resistant material, which is also resistant to liquids, dust, and grease. The terminal cover has a top and sides which define an opening leading into an interior space, which fits about and accommodates a bank card terminal placed on a support surface. The sides of the cover contact the support surface to transfer the force from an accidental blow away from the bank card terminal and onto the support surface. The sides have at least one opening through which telephone terminal cords may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal. The perimeter of the opening defined by the cover sidewalls may include a shock absorbing seal to keep out liquids, dust and grease. This shock absorbing seal enables the cover to be made of a lighter weight material while still protecting the terminal cover.

To use the simplest embodiment, the cover is simply placed over a bankcard terminal lying on a table, counter, or other support surface, when not in use. To utilize the bankcard terminal, the cover is then lifted and removed to access the bank card slot and keyboard. If desired, a handle may be included on the top exterior of the cover to aid in its removal and replacement.

Preferably, the cover is made of single piece construction made of a lightweight rigid material, such as nylon, plastic, or other rigid materials, which prevent accidental damage to the bankcard terminal. These materials are readily injection molded into the desired shape to form a cover of single piece construction. To insure that the terminal is online, preferably the cover is constructed of a transparent material to enable visual inspection of the terminal display.

In one preferred embodiment for wall mounted bank card terminals, the cover has attachment means, such as corresponding hook and loop strips or hinges associated with the top of the bank card terminal to swing in a first mode to provide access to a bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot. The cover is then closed over the bank card terminal when not in use.

in a second mode to contact the wall support surface and prevent accidental contact and damage from dust, grime, liquids, or other matter, which interfere with the bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot electronics. This embodiment may also include a shock absorbing seal around the bottom of the opening similar to that described above.

In another embodiment for use with the outdoors, the cover may include a bottom openably attached to the cover to provide required access to the bankcard terminal, while protecting the bankcard terminal from exposure to the elements. To prevent being blown off by the wind, the cover may be weighted, or attached to the terminal with hook and loop strips as described above.

Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective view of one preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates a rear view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 2a illustrates a top view of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2b illustrates a rear view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a.

Fig. 2c illustrates front view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a.

Fig. 2d illustrates a side view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2a.

Fig. 3 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 5 illustrates another preferred embodiment of the invention.

Description of the Illustrated Embodiments

Fig. 1 illustrates the simplest embodiment of the invention 10 which comprises a transparent crush resistant terminal cover 12 with a top 14 and sides 16 defining an open bottom 18 structured and sized to fit over a bank card terminal processing machine. The cover 12 has hook and loop strips 17 attached to its underside, which adhere to corresponding hook and loop strips 17 attached to the top of the bank card terminal processing machine.

The cover 12 material is also resistant to liquids, dust, and grease. The sides 16 fit about and cover the bankcard terminal when placed over the terminal on a support surface. The sides 16 of the cover 12 contact the support surface to transfer the force from an accidental blow away from the bank card terminal and onto the support surface. The sides 16 have at least one opening 20 shown in Fig. 2 through which telephone terminal cords may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal.

To use this embodiment, the cover 12 is simply placed over the bank card terminal when not in use. To utilize the bankcard terminal, the cover 12 is removed to access the bankcard slot and keyboard. If desired, a handle 22 may be included on the top 14 exterior of the cover 12 to aid in its removal to access the bank card terminal key pad and card slot.

The embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are blow molded in a single piece made of rigid transparent nylon or plastic to enable visual inspection of the terminal displays. Fig. 2a illustrates a top view of a preferred embodiment of the invention. The cover 12 is a single piece of transparent plastic with the handle 22 incorporated in the single piece design. The rear of the cover 12 has an opening 20 shown in Fig. 2b through which terminal cords are connected to the bank card terminal. The front 23 of the cover 12 is shown in Fig. 2c. The top side 16 defines another power cord opening 20 and has a top 23 which gradually slopes upward toward the rear opening 20 as shown in Fig. 2c and 2d

Fig. 3 illustrates a cover 12 with hinges 24 which attach to a hinge mounting bar 26 attached to the top of the bank card terminal. It opens in a first mode to provide access to a bankcard terminal keypad and card reading slot. It is then closed about the bank card terminal

when not in use in a second mode to prevent accidental contact and damage from dust, grime, liquids, and other matter which interfering with the bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot electronics. The perimeter of the sidewalls defining the bottom opening is covered by a shock absorbing seal 27.

Fig. 4 illustrates the cover 12 shown in Fig. 1 adapted with a bottom 28 which is structured to removably seal to the cover 12 to totally encase the bank card terminal. Fig. 5 illustrates another encasement variation with a bottom 28 with upstanding walls 30 which are hingedly associated with a hinged cover 12 to open and close as shown. The encased embodiments of Figs. 4 and 5 are adapted especially for use outdoors to prevent rain damage of the bank card terminal.

Although this specification and referred to the illustrated embodiments, it is not intended to restrict the scope of the appended claims. The claims themselves recite those features deemed essential to the invention.

Claims

I claim:

1. A bank card terminal cover for bank card terminals having exterior exposed card reading slots and keyboards pervious to liquids, grease, and dust, the terminal placed on a non-integral separate support surface independent of the bank card terminal and cover, comprising: a rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust, and grease impervious top with sidewalls defining an open bottom leading into an interior chamber sized to fit about and cover the bank card terminal placed on the separate support surface, said side walls extending sufficiently about the bank card terminal to contact the separate support surface to elevate the top and side walls of the cover above and around the bank card terminal to protect the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects by directing them away from the bank card terminal onto the separate support surface, and defining at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal.

2. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 1, wherein the top is openably mounted to the top of the bank card terminal to open in a first mode to provide access to a bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot, and to close in a second mode about the bank card terminal to prevent dust, grime, liquids, and other matter from interfering with the bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot.

3. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 1, including a handle on the top exterior to aid in removal of the top to access the key pad and card slot of said bank card terminal.

4. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 1, wherein the top is transparent.

5. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 1, including a shock absorbing seal affixed to the open bottom of the cover side walls to allow the cover to removably seal to the support surface.

6. A bank card terminal according to Claim 1, including a bottom sized to support and

fit around the bottom of a bank card terminal with structure operably associated with the cover to allow the cover to seal thereto in a first mode, and to open to provide access to the bank card terminal in a second mode.

7. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 6, wherein the bottom and cover structure include corresponding hinge mounts to enable the cover to pivot open to expose the bank card terminal keys and card slot reader for use in a first mode, and to pivot closed in a second mode for storage of the bank card terminal.

8. A bank card terminal cover for bank card terminals mounted on a vertical non-integral support surface independent of the bank card terminals and cover, the terminals having card reading slots and keyboards pervious to liquids, grease, and dust comprising:

- a. a transparent rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust, and grease impervious top with sidewalls defining an open bottom leading into an interior sized to fit about and cover the bank card terminal, said sidewalls extending sufficiently about the terminal to contact the support surface to elevate the top and side walls of the cover above and around the bank card terminal to protect the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects by directing them away from the bank card terminal onto the separate support surface independent of the bank card terminal, and defining at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal,
- b. opening structure associated with the top of the bank card terminal and terminal cover to provide access to the terminal card keyboard and card reading slot in a first mode, and to close about and secure the card terminal in a second mode, and
- c. a shock absorbing seal affixed to the edges of the cover sidewalls to seal with the support surface.

Abstract

A rigid transparent crush resistant bank card terminal cover having a liquid, dust, and grease impervious top with sides defining an open bottom leading into an interior sized to fit about and cover a bank card terminal when placed upon a support surface, the sides defining at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal.

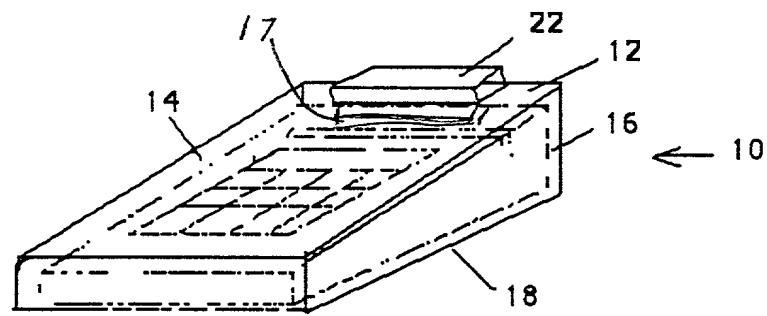


Fig. 1

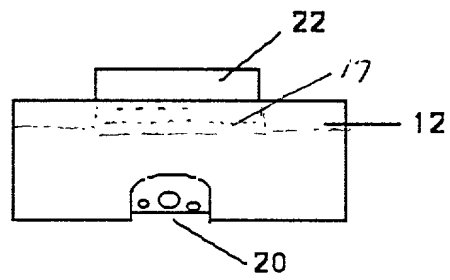


Fig. 2

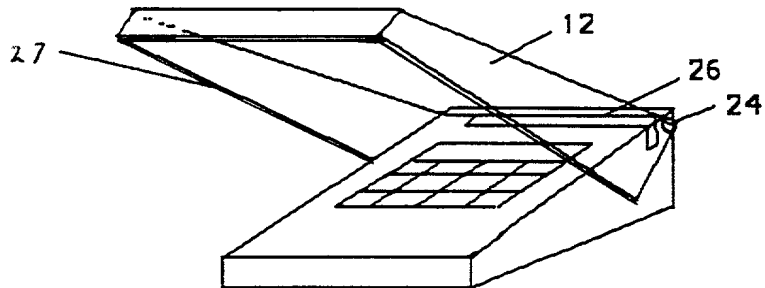


Fig. 3

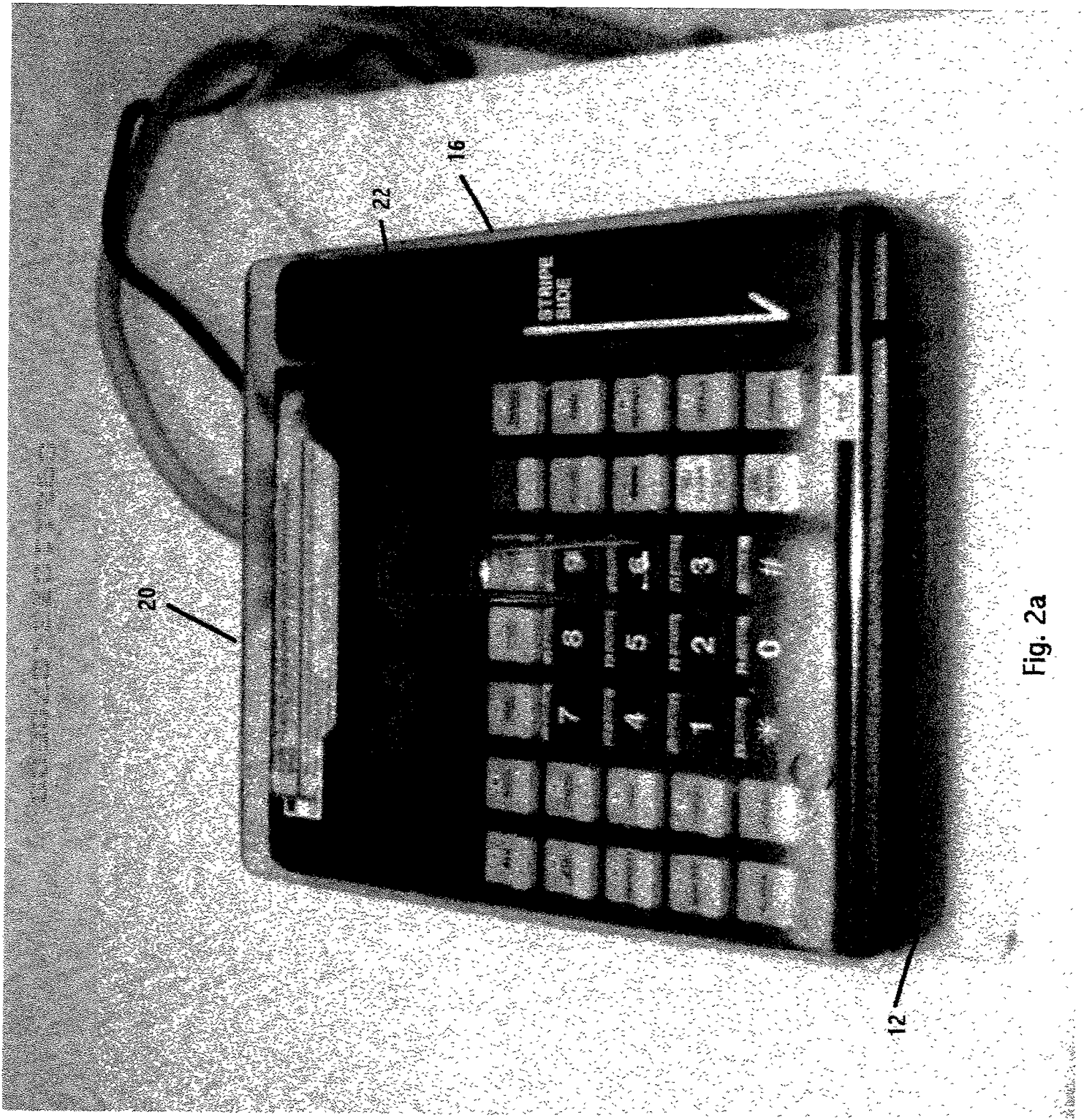


Fig. 2a

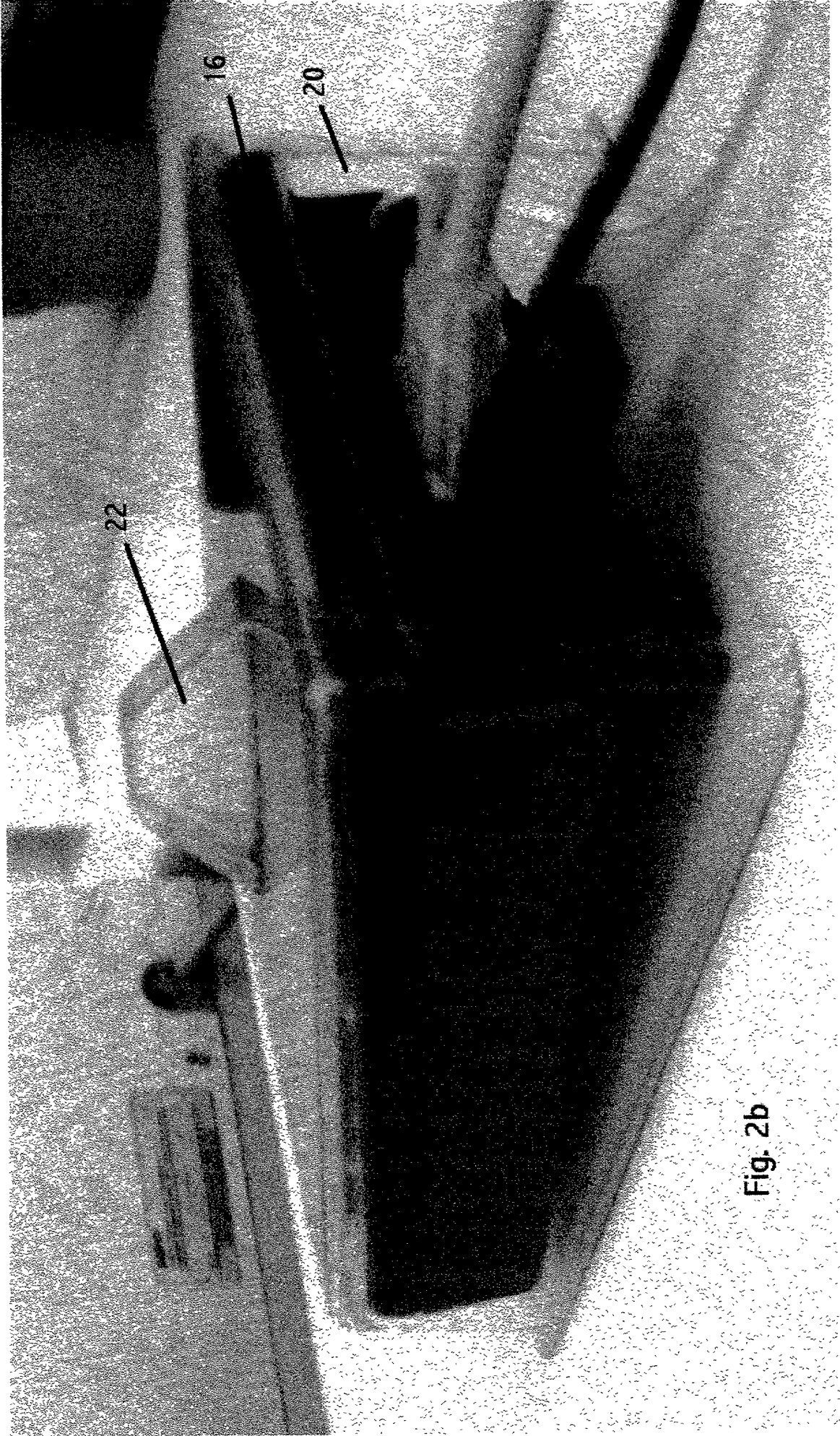


Fig. 2b

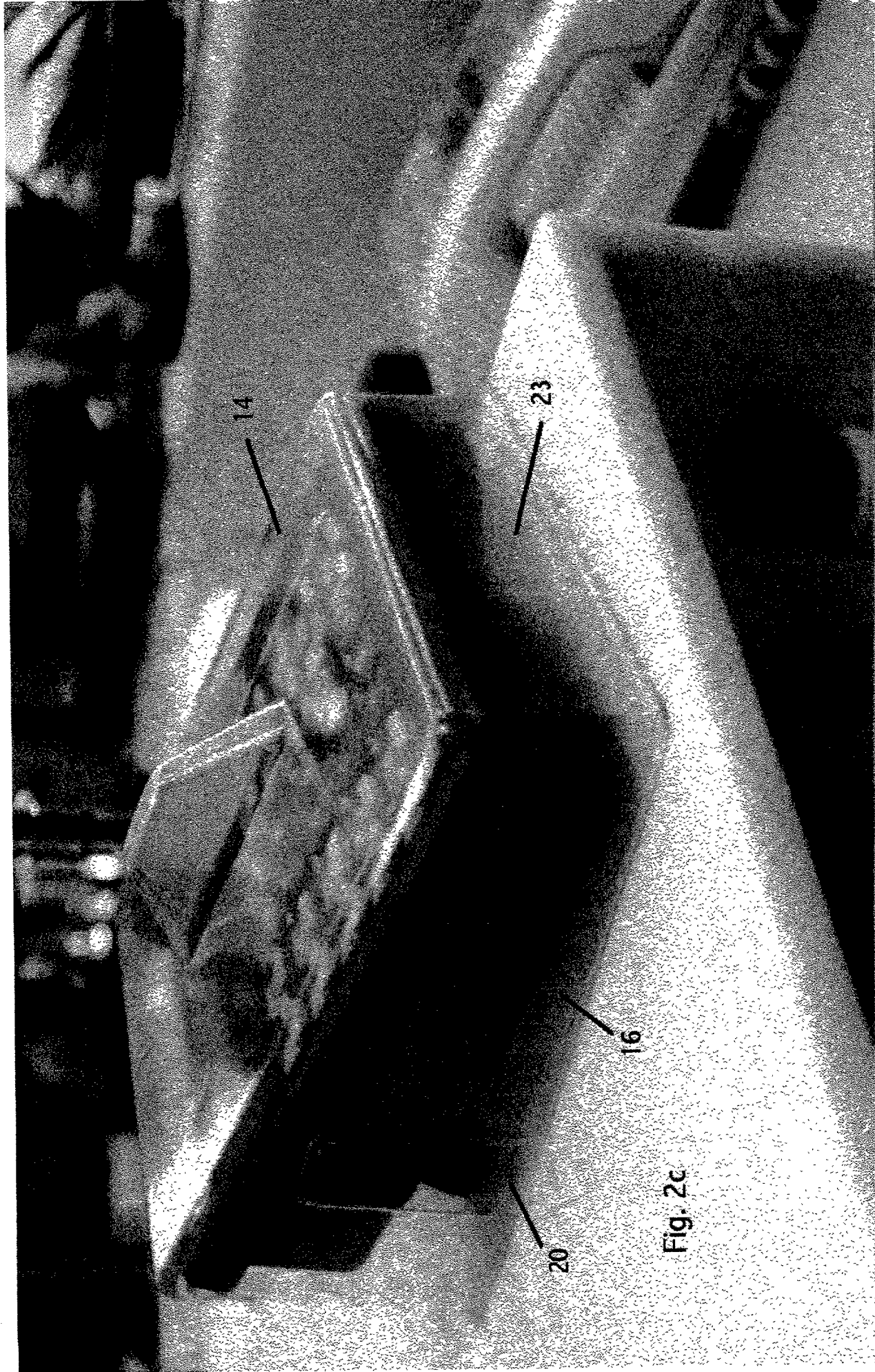


Fig. 2c



Fig. 2d

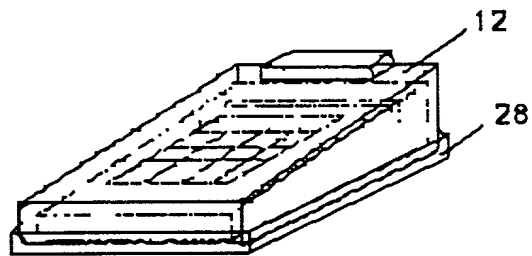


Fig. 4

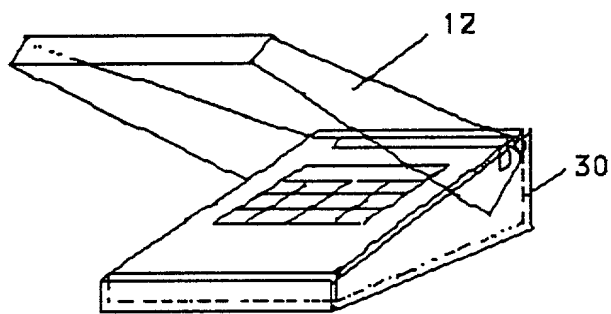


Fig. 5

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION
SMALL INVENTOR

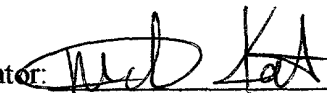
I, Mike Katsanevas, 3190 South Highland Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106, hereby declare that I am a citizen of the United States; that I verily believe that I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the invention BANK CARD TERMINAL COVER, described and claimed in the attached specification, which is a continuation-in-part application of the continuation-in-part application, Serial No. 09/131,352 filed 8/10/98 entitled "Bank Card Terminal Cover" of the originally filed application entitled "Bank Card Terminal Cover", Serial No. 08/786,564, filed 01/17/97, now abandoned, that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration, that I do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or more than one year prior to this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States for more than one year prior to this application; that this invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States in an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months before this application; that I acknowledge a duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on the invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns or with my knowledge and consent in any country foreign to the United States.

I further appoint Marcus G. Theodore, Registration No. 26,815, 466 South 500 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102, Telephone No. (801) 359-8622, as my attorney authorized to act in a representative capacity for the purpose of receiving all responses thereto, responding to office actions, filing amendments, continuation-in-part applications, and other documents necessary for prosecuting the appended application.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United State Code, Section 120 of the United States application listed above, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a), which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national filing of this application.

I, the undersigned petitioners declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements made will jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 6-29-00

Inventor: 
Mike Katsanevas
3190 South Highland Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106